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Volume 18 Number 5484

AMMAN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1993, JUMADA AL THANI 27, 1414

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Assad, Regent exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, during which they exchanged views on a number of issues of common interest as part of the ongoing consultation between His Majesty King Hussein and President Assad. The Regent and President Assad also discussed the latest developments of the peace process and the outcome of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region. Prince Hassan and the Syrian leader agreed to pursue consultation, coordination and exchange of views with the aim of achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace.

Israeli soldier killed in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas knocked out an Israeli tank with a rocket in South Lebanon Friday, and security sources said an Israeli crewman was killed and another wounded. He was the first Israeli military fatality reported in Israel's self-styled "security zone" since the Jewish state and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed their peace accord Sept. 13. There was no immediate responsibility claim for the 4:15 p.m. (1415 GMT) attack on a road between the villages of Shoumariyah and Alman in the central sector of the Israeli-occupied zone. But the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the rocket was fired at a two-tank Israeli patrol from an area controlled by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah.

16 Palestinian expellees flee camp

MARJ AL ZOUHOUR, Lebanon (AFP) — Sixteen Palestinian exiles have fled their camp in South Lebanon to avoid prison when Israel takes them back later this month, their colleagues said. The 16, among 215 Palestinian exiles still left in Lebanon, went to live with relatives in Lebanon or members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement, they said. They allegedly used false documents allowing them refugee status in Lebanon.

Algerian hijacker arrested at Nice

NICE, France (R) — Police overpowered a lone Algerian hijacker who seized a French airliner Friday and demanded to be flown to Libya, officials said. A spokeswoman for the state airline Air France said the hijacker, armed with a knife, was arrested at Nice airport. As the man emerged on top of the aircraft steps, apparently to negotiate, a policeman hiding behind the plane door sent him tumbling with a strong push. More policemen seized him. The hijacker held the two pilots and four stewardesses of the Air France Airbus A320, on a flight from Paris to Nice, for about 90 minutes after letting all 123 passengers disembark. Police sources said the man was identified as an Algerian wanted for armed robbery and drug-trafficking who had been banned from France. They did not name him.

Bhutto in Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived here Friday for an official visit and talks with Turkish counterpart Tansu Ciller who stressed "the importance" of their meeting as "two women prime ministers of the Islamic world." Ms. Bhutto, in a statement after she arrived at Ankara airport, said she aimed to strengthen the "exemplary" relations between Pakistan and Turkey and would "seek ways to boost" their economic relations to a level "which will reflect (the two countries) true potential" (Visit to Iran, page 10).

300 people injured in Safeway fire disaster

200 leave hospital after treatment for mainly smoke inhalation while condition of some others is serious

Initial reports blame electrical fault for blaze

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — About 300 people, including many children, suffered injuries of various degrees and were hospitalised yesterday in one of Jordan's worst fire disasters in recent years.

Most injuries were sustained from smoke inhalation and the resulting stampede that followed the break-out of a fire at the Safeway Department Stores, one of Amman's largest shopping centres.

Over 200 victims were released from hospitals after treatment while 50 others are still hospitalised, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. About 300 others, out of a total of an estimated 1,200 shoppers, suffered light injuries and were treated on the spot.

A Civil Defence Department spokesman said there were no deaths among the casualties. Minister of Interior Salameh Hammoud told Petra that some victims were "in serious condition."

Civil defence sources said initial reports indicated the fire resulted from a short circuit, adding that a special committee



Rescuers bring out children from the smoke-filled Safeway stores after a blaze hit the stores Friday evening. Standing next to the uniformed

police officer is Interior Minister Salameh Hammoud (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

tee will be formed to investigate the accident. A spokesman for the store told journalists he was certain the fire started as a result of an electrical fault.

Other sources said the fire erupted when a short circuit occurred in the "ice-man" placed at the entrance of the building to mark the Christmas season.

Firemen and health workers battled the fire for more than an hour. Tens of unconscious victims were rushed into ambulances that sped through thousands of people who crammed

Settlers gun down three Palestinians near Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Jewish settlers Friday shot dead three Palestinians in a wave of tit-for-tat killings preceding Monday's deadline for Israel to start a troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres warned earlier that any delay in implementing Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip risked "playing into the hands of the enemies of peace."

Settlers in a car with an Israeli number plate opened fire as they passed a Peugeot van, killing three Palestinians inside, at Khuras, northwest of Hebron in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

An anonymous telephone caller told Israel radio that the Palestinians were murdered in revenge for Monday's killings of settlers Mordechai and Shalom Lapid near Hebron.

Hundreds of Palestinians marched in protest during the burial for the three victims in their home village of Tarqumiyah.

Residents of Tarqumiyah said settlers opened fire on a white Peugeot station wagon, killing the driver and two passengers as they drove home from work in Beit Shemesh near Jerusalem.

The victims included two brothers, the driver Saadi Abdul Mahdi Fataftah, 27, and

Mohammad Abdul Mahdi Fataftah, 25, and his cousin, Ismael Mahmoud Fataftah, 25.

Israel Radio said the assailants fired from a passing car near Beit Ullah village next to Tarqumiyah, a farming village of 7,000, 10 kilometres south of Hebron.

It said that a phone caller to the station identifying himself only as Ronen, said the slaying were "in revenge for Mordechai and Shalom Lapid," a father and son killed by Palestinians in Hebron on Tuesday.

A cousin, Tayeis Fataftah, said he found their bloody bodies in the car 10 minutes after the shooting.

"I didn't recognise them for a few minutes, their faces were so bloodied," Fataftah said. He said Saadia's hand was still on the gear shift.

Mr. Fataftah said two Arab shepherd boys told him the Israeli gunmen set up a makeshift checkpoint by blocking a main road with their car.

Watching from a nearby olive grove, the boys saw the Israelis stop the Peugeot and shoot the Palestinians at close range through their rolled down window, Mr. Fataftah said.

Another Palestinian came and drove the car away to nearby Beit Ullah to bury the victims, fearing soldiers would confiscate the bodies for

autopsy.

Stones were thrown at soldiers who arrived at the scene but they did not respond, witnesses said.

An army statement confirmed the slayings, and said that reports that the gunfire came from "someone riding in a car with yellow (Israeli) license plates," were being investigated.

A settler and an Israeli policeman were wounded by Palestinian assailants in separate attacks on the Gaza Strip earlier, military sources said.

The settler was in serious condition after he was stabbed by two Palestinian farm workers in a greenhouse at the Gan Or settlement, the sources added.

A third Palestinian worker, the father of one of the assailants, was also stabbed and wounded by his son when he tried to rescue the Israeli settler, witnesses said.

The two victims were hospitalised in Beersheva.

On Thursday, a Palestinian farmer, 55-year-old Khams Abu Awad, was shot dead in a field near the village of Turmus Aya, north of Ramallah in the West Bank.

16-year-old resident of the Shilo settlement suspected of carrying out the attack was put under house arrest Friday and a second suspect, a man employed as a guard at Shilo, was

being held for two days.

Five Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in the north of the West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

Four were wounded in

Sanur, a village between Jenin and Nablus, by Palestinians collaborating with Israel.

The fifth was wounded by an Israeli soldier during a demonstration in Nablus.

Clinton and Assad set for summit

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria has given a boost to Washington's languishing Middle East peace initiative by agreeing to return to the negotiating table with Israel after a boycott lasting almost three months.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has been shuttling between Israel and the Arabs, announced the breakthrough in Damascus on Thursday.

With Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation still divided on just how to implement their self-rule deal, it remained unclear whether Israeli forces would start withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Monday as scheduled.

Mr. Christopher emerged from talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Thursday to announce the resumption of the U.S.-brokered Washington talks as well as a summit in Geneva in mid-January between Mr. Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

(Continued on page 3)

Majali's pledges seen key to House-Cabinet ties

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A healthy relationship between the legislative and executive authorities will develop if the government demonstrates willingness to cooperate with the legislature and implements the pledges Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali made in his speech to parliamentarians before the Lower House of Parliament gave a vote of confidence to his cabinet Wednesday, deputies said.

"The ball now is in the court of the government," Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Hamman Said told the Jordan Times. "Practices and not speeches is what counts," he said.

Dr. Said, who said his bloc's opposition to the government is based on principles

pled and ideological grounds, said the Islamists would recognise any positive overtures from the government.

"Our opposition is one of principle derived from a belief in ideas and that differs from opposition which is built over certain stands and can change over a minute," said Mr. Said in reference to deputies who indicated opposition to Cabinet in their speeches but then voted in its favour.

He said the front would seek to coordinate with other deputies opposed to the government in order to form a stronger parliamentary opposition bloc.

The IAF was the only parliamentary bloc that took a united stand on the government of Dr. Majali, with all

its members, except for one who did not attend the session, withholding confidence.

While Dr. Said attributed the different voting pattern of other blocs to their "confusion and lack of commitment" since they do not represent one homogeneous political ideology, Mr. Rawabdeh said no one should criticise members of other blocs for not taking a unified position.

"(The blocs) do not represent political parties. On a major political issue it is normal that (each of their members) take his own stand," said Mr. Rawabdeh, who withheld confidence from the Cabinet of Dr. Majali.

Deputy Aref Bataineh of

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat, Rabin meet on Sunday

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will hold "very important" talks Sunday on the eve of a deadline for Israeli troops to start pulling out of Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Christopher was visiting Tunis on the last but one leg of a week-long Middle East tour which has already taken him to Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. He flew to Morocco later Friday.

Mr. Arafat said: "We hope that we will overcome all the obstacles."

Under the terms of the PLO-Israel accord on limited autonomy for the Palestinians signed on Sept. 13 Israel is due to start pulling its troops out of the Gaza Strip and Jericho on December 13.

However, the deadline for implementation of the autonomy accord has been threatened by disagreements over control over crossing points between the future autonomous areas and Egypt and Jordan, the release of

and the release of

(Continued on page 3)

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"It is clear that the summit between President Assad and Clinton in Geneva ... will push forward the peace process to achieve a comprehensive and just peace," the official daily Tishrin said.

"The summit reflects Syria's key role in the peace process," it added.

1948 refugees — forgotten in the frenzy of autonomy

By Jack Redden
Reuter

AMMAN — Palestinians, driven from the infant Israeli state 45 years ago and never integrated in neighbouring lands, sustained their dreams of going home on Arab promises and United Nations resolutions.

The Israeli-PLO peace accord has now raised the hopes of those from the West Bank or Gaza Strip that Israel captured in 1967. But the future of those original 1948 refugees looks bleaker than ever.

"We did not leave our country willingly and if they let us return, we would return tomorrow," vegetable seller Mustapha Darwish said in the Amman refugee camp of Jabal Al Hussein. "But it is hopeless."

Under the accord Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in September, there cannot be even a discussion of the 1948 refugees for another two years.

Darwish was 13 years old when his parents, five brothers and a sister fled Lida, Israel's Lod, for the wooded slopes that became the refugee camp. Now it is a contested, rundown area enveloped by Amman's expansion.

The accord, far less than anything Palestinians had demanded over the years, provides only for limited self-rule starting in the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

After two years, and within five, a final settlement is to be reached. The most intractable problems, such as the future of Jerusalem and the demand of 1948 refugees to return, will only be tackled in that last stage.

"It might be possible for them, at a certain stage of the self-rule period, to be admitted to the occupied territories after the (1967) displaced persons return," said Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, who signed the peace accord with Israel.

"But this is a matter which needs more time to be worked out," Mr. Abbas, himself a 1948 refugee, said in the PLO headquarters of Tunis.

Since Israel shows little desire to allow a mass return of even 1967 refugees to the occupied territories, no one expects Israel to drop its traditional refusal to contemplate a return of Arabs to their homes inside what is now the Jewish state.

The number of Palestinians who lost their homes in today's Israel, fed by birth rates as high as Jordan's 3.5 per cent annual growth, are immense.

UNRWA, the United Nations body established to help the 1948 refugees, lists 1,072,561 in Jordan, 603,380 in the Gaza Strip, 479,023 in the West Bank, 328,176 in Lebanon and 314,039 in Syria.

Their conditions vary greatly. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip they are among other Palestinians, in Lebanon and Syria there has been almost no integration with the local population.

In Jordan, their status has been in between. They received citizenship, but tensions between original Jordanians and Palestinians, who may now be the majority, flare occasionally.

"I still have the same ideas," said Hussein Al Ramahi, an engineer who moved his family from Zarqa refugee camp five years ago to a middle class home in Amman.

"It's not going to change my thoughts. I still believe I have to go back to Palestine," said the 37-year-old man who had fought for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. "Israel did not give us one per cent of our rights."

Refugee associations, often based on specific 1948 villages, meet regularly and publish records of what happened nearly a half century ago. A recent increase in publishing reflects a realisation that the original generation is disappearing.

"They have started to realise settling here is going to be a fact and there is movement among refugees in the camps to resist the idea," said Hisham Al Farr, a 28-year-old whose parents came from Jaffa.

Mr. Farr, sitting by his mother in a cramped house in late Al Hussein camp, said without hesitation that he expected his eight-month-old daughter to spend her life in Jordan.

discussed and increasingly sceptical the limited autonomy Israel is offering will satisfy other Palestinians.

Despite decades of Arab calls for the "liberation" of Palestine and U.N. resolution 194 demanding the right of return or compensation for the 1948 refugees, the PLO's willingness to settle for less was apparent long before September.

"This should have been known for a long time. Since 1988 the Palestinian peace initiative was talking about U.N. Resolution 242 (dealing with 1967) rather than other problems," said Ibrahim Abu Ayash, a member of the PLO Central Council.

"People did not pay much attention to that but when something was put on paper and signed they started to shout," he said in his Amman office.

In the crowded refugee camps, residents maintain they will accept nothing less than return to the family homes. Suggestions of compensation draw derisory comments about "selling your country."

"The PLO leadership has betrayed the people," said a bearded 49-year-old man who had fought for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. "Israel did not give us one per cent of our rights."

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Gunmen spray Cairo cinema; policeman killed, many hurt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Gunmen opened fire on a cinema in a Cairo suburb Thursday night as crowds left after films, killing a policeman on guard outside and wounding six other people.

The gunfire shattered the glass front of the cinema Magda in the industrial suburb of Helwan, 25 kilometres south of the centre in Cairo. The blood of the dead policeman stained the pavement.

The cinema and the adjacent Al Marwa have been showing films that are part of the Cairo International Film Festival, an annual event condemned by Muslim fundamentalists because it includes foreign films with more explicit sex scenes than are usually allowed in Egypt.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfli blamed the attack on Muslim militants, who have been waging a campaign of violence to overthrow the government and nearly killed the prime minister with a remote-controlled bomb last month.

The ministry quoted General Al Alfli as saying after visiting the wounded in hospital: "Opening fire at random in this cowardly way shows that these groups have reached the point of despair and collapse after the heavy blows which the security forces have directed against them in the past few days."

A police officer at the scene said the policeman who died, Hassan Izzat Tewfik, was hit by so many bullets that his body was barely recognisable.

Officers said they believed there had been four gunmen, all in their late teens or early twenties, and that two had

already been caught. Witnesses said the gunmen simply walked up to the front of the cinema and opened fire before running away.

The policeman died shortly after being taken to hospital, and two other people were in serious condition.

Police captured a suspect at a road block shortly afterwards, wounding him when he refused to stop, unconfirmed reports in the press said. They found sketches of the cinemas on him and details of how many policemen would be on duty outside.

The attackers were disguised on military uniforms.

The owner of the cinemas, the Magda and Al Marwa, said the toll could have been higher but the programme was running late and people had only just started leaving.

Muslim fundamentalists regard even Arab films, which avoid explicit sex, as sinful because they show torrid love affairs, drinking and other behaviour deemed immoral. Militants have fire-bombed several video stores in recent years.

But neither Jihad nor the Gamma are known to have attacked a cinema and both have denied targeting innocent civilians.

Jihad's preferred tactics are to assassinate top government and military figures. The Gamma murders police officers and has devastated Egypt's tourist industry with gun and bomb attacks on foreigners.

NEWS IN BRIEF

One in five settlers ready to shoot

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nearly one in every five Israeli settlers is prepared to use his gun against the Palestinian police, according to an opinion poll in Friday's *Yediot Aharonot* newspaper. Seventeen per cent of the 120,000 Jewish colonists on the West Bank and Gaza "will use firearms against any attempt at arrest by Palestinian police." The *Dabat Institute* found that 32 per cent would oppose arrest by force but without using a gun and 39 per cent of the settlers would obey the new police. Twelve per cent expressed no opinion in the survey of 418 settlers carried out Tuesday and Wednesday. The margin of error was four per cent. The armed Palestinian force, which Israel says can be 15,000 strong, is to maintain order in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as Israel pulls troops out under the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement. No date has been announced for the Palestinians to begin patrols.

Tunisian fundamentalist on hunger strike

BREST, France (AFP) — A Tunisian Islamic fundamentalist under house arrest here went on hunger strike Thursday to protest a police raid on his home in the Paris area, he said on Friday. Salah Karker, a leader of the Tunisian fundamentalist movement Al Nahda, said police searched his flat at Epinay-sur-Seine, north of Paris, for 12 hours. "They took my books and all my letters. I am only a political opponent. I am not a thief, a murderer or a drug trafficker. A hunger strike is the only way I can protest." During the raid on Wednesday, French police questioned Mr. Karker's wife, Samira Labidi. They also swooped on the houses of 11 other alleged Tunisian Islamic fundamentalists in the Paris area and eastern France. Police said the raids were carried out at the request of a Tunisian examining magistrate who issued an international warrant asking France to probe "the possibility that criminal gangs" were planning to "attack persons of property" in France. A political refugee since 1987, father-of-six Karker was arrested last Oct. 30 at Epinay, and issued with a deportation order for his "active support for a terrorist movement in France and in other European countries." He was placed under house arrest pending his appeal against deportation.

Moroccan gets death for raping boy

RABAT (R) — A policeman was sentenced to death in Morocco for raping young boys in handcuffs and 10 accomplices were jailed for participating in sex orgies. Lawyers said Bouchaib Arbad was sentenced on Thursday by a court in Al Jadida 90 kilometres southwest of Casablanca. He was also ordered to pay 30,000 dirhams (\$3,150) to the customs administration for trafficking in alcoholic beverages. The court handed sentences ranging from four months to 10 years on the 10 accomplices, one of them another policeman. They were further ordered to pay fines ranging from 10,000 to 66,000 dirhams (\$1,050 to \$6,950). The 10 were convicted of involvement in orgies organised by Mr. Arbad at his home in the nearby town of Azemmour, trafficking in alcoholic beverages and pornographic videos. Mr. Arbad was arrested in Azemmour on April 30 following complaints from the parents of two young boys who said they had been raped by the accused while photographs were being taken. The court was told 24 boys had been victimised by Mr. Arbad who handcuffed or bound some of them. It is the second death sentence passed on a policeman this year for sexual crimes. Chief Police Commissioner Mustapha Tabet was sentenced to death by a Casablanca court on March 15 and executed by firing squad on Aug. 9. Tabet was convicted of multiple rape during orgies in a Casablanca flat which involved 518 women over a period of three years. He filmed the sessions with hidden video cameras.

Iranian grand ayatollah dies

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Golpayegan, one of the most senior Shi'ite Muslim clerics, died Thursday evening at the age of 96. Iranian radios and television ran sombre music and verses from the Koran in honour of the ayatollah, who was taken from the holy city of Qom to Tehran's Martyr Rajaei hospital on Monday night with a respiratory infection. "Grand Ayatollah Golpayegan, the leader of Shi'ite Muslims all over the world, has gone to heaven," Tehran Radio said. Ayatollah Golpayegan was a close friend of Iran's late revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Many Shi'ite Muslims considered him the foremost marja taqid — the highest rank of the Shi'ite clergy which literally means "the source of imitation" — since the death in August 1992 of Grand Ayatollah Abol Qassem Al Khoei in Najaf in Iraq. Ayatollah Golpayegan avoided direct involvement in politics although he supported the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Rights report says abuses continue in Turkey

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Kurdish rebellion led to "appalling" human rights abuses in Turkey in 1993, according to the new Human Rights Watch World Report, released Thursday. The report said that security forces shot and killed civilians in house raids and used torture as an interrogation technique. The guerrilla war started by the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) escalated and the report said "support for the PKK in southeast Turkey appeared to grow rather than to decline. Unfortunately the government chose to deal with these problems by shooting and killing suspected members of extremist groups in violation of international agreements and standards." A large number of suspects were killed in raids described as shootouts by authorities but in which security forces were rarely killed or wounded "creating a strong presumption that the suspects were deliberately executed," it said. "Contrary to international agreements," 38 demonstrators sympathetic to the Kurdish rebellion were shot by police in four cities in southeast Turkey, it added. The report said that "cruel torture of suspects of both ordinary and political crimes continued as a routine part of their interrogation by police." Eighteen suspects died in suspicious circumstances in custody.

Exodus of foreigners from Algeria picks up after killings

ALGIERS (AFP) — The exodus of foreigners fleeing death threats from militants accelerated Friday after Russia, the United States and France moved to reduce the number of their nationals in Algeria.

Airlines said flights to Europe were fully booked until Jan. 10, with many foreigners, notably French, planning to leave the country after the start of Christmas school holidays on Dec. 15.

The U.S. State Department late Thursday urged Americans to leave Algeria unless they had compelling reasons to remain there and said U.S. embassy staff was being cut back to a minimum for security reasons.

It also issued a travel warning urging Americans not to travel to Algeria.

Russia also announced Thursday that it was evacuating the families of embassy and trade centre staff and France, the former colonial power, said it was cutting back on its 600 government personnel here.

Even before the official moves, foreigners had begun leaving the country since militants trying to topple the government and set up a fun-

ctional state began targeting foreigners three months ago.

Eleven foreigners have been killed since September, four of them since the Dec. 1 explosion of a deadline set by the militants for expatriots to quit the country or face death.

Two Russian military instructors and a Russian woman married to an Algerian were among those murdered.

There are many Russian military instructors in Algeria, along with doctors and technical staff, and many Algerians who studied in the old Soviet Union brought back Russian spouses.

The Russian embassy has told nationals across the country to stand by for repatriation. The wives and children of employees at the consulate at Annaba in eastern Algeria are being evacuated. And schools for Russian children are to close temporarily.

The United States has over the past year already repatriated the families of some diplomats, and closed the American school and the consulate in Oran.

But the cultural centre in the relatively well protected Hydya

district of the capital is carrying on normally. Its clients are mainly Algerians wanting to improve their English.

There are an estimated 300 Americans in Algeria, according to unofficial figures. Most are in the oil industry, based in the far south where U.S. firms are working a dozen prospecting concessions in the Sahara Desert in cooperation with the Algerian state oil and natural gas company Sonatrach.

Bechtel is renovating liquid gas pipelines at a plant in Arzew in western Algeria.

British technician Malcolm David Vincent, working for Pullmantur Kellog at the same plant, was murdered there on Tuesday.

Other American firms in the country include Anadarko, Phillips, Mobil, Arco, Pecon and Occidental.

France, the most prominent foreign presence here, voiced its concern at the situation and urged the utmost vigilance by French nationals.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, using measured diplomatic tones, said Thursday that a "falling back" rather than a "withdrawal," of some expatriates and children from Algeria was being planned.

It will be sunny and warm with clouds appearing at different altitudes, and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, in will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 7/15

Amman 13/24

Desert 4/21

Jordan Valley 12/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings:

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331.

Saint George Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 652756.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 119192.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

Prayer Times

Fajr (Sunrise) Omdurman

Asr (Afternoon)

'Asr (Midday)

Isha (Night)

Chuches

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swafford, Tel. 810740.

Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terresende Church Tel. 622366.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1993 3

Udwan discusses tourism with American academics

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Mohammad Aftash Al Udwan Friday briefed an American delegation comprising 140 students and teachers from Brigham Young University in the U.S. State of Utah on Jordan's democratic experience.

Speaking at a meeting with the delegation, Dr. Udwan said Jordan seeks a just and comprehensive peace which ensures the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and accepted by future generations.

Dr. Udwan said a just and comprehensive peace will have its political and social reflections on the region and will contribute to security and stability. This in turn, he said, will have positive effects on the tourism sector in the whole region in general and in Jordan in particular in view

of Jordan's wealth of historical, cultural and archaeological places.

Dr. Udwan said the tourism sector in Jordan is one of the main pillars of the Jordanian economy and that it is one of the major sources for hard currency.

The delegation is on a six-day visit to Jordan and is expected to tour archaeological sites and tourist attractions. The delegation is accompanied by the Brigham University Jerusalem-based Director of the Near Eastern Studies Centre Keat Brown and Professor of the Near Eastern Studies at the Centre Nafez Nazal.

The meeting was attended by Director General of the Antiquities Department Safwan Al Tal and senior ministry officials.

Majali's pledges seen key

(Continued from page 1)

the 22-member Progressive Democratic Coalition (PDC) said the different stands members of the bloc took do not reflect a division in the front because the voting pattern was agreed upon.

"We agreed on how each member of the bloc would vote," said Dr. Bataineh. Some members of the PDC backed the government, others opposed it and some abstained.

The Jordanian National Front (JNF) left its eight members to take his own decision and so did the six-member independent bloc.

While Deputy Rawabdeh said the outcome of the voting session were not surprising, Dr. Said said he was surprised by the "increase in the number of deputies who supported the Cabinet, claiming the government gained extra votes after negotiations with some deputies."

Observers say these negotiations and other political calculations could account for the shift in the position of some deputies who severely criticised the government in their speeches but voted in its favour.

Some deputies said the government had shown disrespect for the legislature and questioned its ability to deal with the challenges facing the country but voted in its favour when a vote was taken.

Deputies who spoke to be Jordan Times dismissed suggestions that the government would have a narrow and fragile mandate because it won the confidence of 41 deputies only.

"A confidence is a confidence," said Mr. Rawabdeh. "Things are evaluated by the results," said Dr. Bataineh.

Others, however, say the government will have a difficult time dealing with the legislature due to the limited number of deputies who support it.

The Cabinet won the lowest number of votes among all cabinets who asked for the confidence of the House since 1989.

The government of Mudhar Badran won 65 votes, Sharif Zeid won 47 votes, and the government of Taher Al Masri, current speaker of the House, won 47 votes. Mr. Masri's government, however, was opposed by 31 deputies, compared to the 29 who withheld confidence from the Cabinet of Mr. Majali.

Following are the 41 deputies who voted in favour of the government, Wednesday:

1. Jamal Al Khreishah

2. Mohammad Al Zahan

3. Salem Zawaydeh

(Deputy Deib Abdullah Khatib was absent).

The following abstained:

1. Taher Al Masri

2. Anwar Hadid

3. Abed Musa Al Nahar

4. Munir Suber

5. Saleh Israheidat

6. Tala Obaidat

7. Ibrahim Shehadeh

8. Jamal Saraireh

9. Nazih Ammarin

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Summit after dip

THE PROJECTED summit between presidents Assad and Clinton in January could be the breakthrough that the parties to the ongoing peace process have long been looking for to reenergise the peace talks. It is hard to imagine that the U.S. president and the Syrian leader would have scheduled such a meeting without having agreed on basic principles touching on ways and means to advance the Syrian-Israeli bilateral peace negotiations and, indeed, the other remaining tracks affecting both the Palestinian as well as the Jordanian and Lebanese fronts. Yet it may still be premature to hail the upcoming summit as the beginning of the end of all existing problems that still lie in the path of the peace process. The fact that the two leaders will meet on neutral grounds suggests that they may be heading for a happy medium solution that lies somewhere between what Damascus is insisting on to resume peace talks and what Washington may view as the compromise that could untie the Syrian-Israeli knot. It is not worthy that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa has less than complimentary words than expected to say about the dramatic announcement which was made Thursday by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about the Geneva meeting. This may suggest that Damascus has not changed its position substantially on the eve of the encounter between presidents Assad and Clinton. On the other hand, there are also signs that the Clinton administration is slowly warming up to Syria by relaxing the sanctions that are still applied against it. The news about U.S. permission to supply Syrian Airways with U.S.-manufactured aircraft could be just the beginning to relax further the Western embargo of Syria in a bid to influence its position on the peace process' negotiations. And this is not all. The agreement by Syria to supply much-awaited information about missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon coupled with the new policies to permit more Syrian Jews to leave the country could be also the start of a process that could lead to an Israeli acceptance of Syrian requests for complete Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights as a price for complete peace with it.

The implications of any breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli front are clearly far-reaching since Damascus has tremendous clout over several Palestinian factions opposed to the PLO-Israel peace accord struck last September as well as over Hezbollah in Lebanon. Washington knows only too well that without Syrian blessing of the Palestinian deal with Israel the road ahead will be strewn with booby traps that may end up aborting it altogether. Hence the importance of the expected Clinton-Assad summit in January. The fact that Syria has officially agreed to resume peace negotiation with Israel in Washington by mid-January is an additional indication that an important development has indeed taken place as a result of Mr. Christopher's shrewd diplomacy between Israel and Syria.

COMMENTARIES

THE VOTE of confidence in the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali was in fact a vote of confidence in the democratic choice made by Jordan and its people, and the debates in Parliament and the speeches were all part of the democratic process, said Al Ra'i daily. The deputies who delivered speeches over the past four days, whether in support or against the government, have all done their homework well and presented a good performance which covered the economic, social and political subjects of concern to the public, said the paper. Although some of the speeches were lengthy and not attractive to the listeners, and despite the fact that some contained harsh remarks against the government and the prime minister, one can say that the deliberations truly reflected the spirit of democracy in the house, continued the daily. It said that both those who supported the government and those who stood against its policy deserve appreciation and gratitude for deepening the meaning of democracy through their different views and stands and for pinpointing, weaknesses and reminding the government of its tasks and the crucial issues facing the country. One can conclude that the sessions of the past four days were successful and helped bolster the democratic experiment in the Kingdom, it added. The paper said that the prime minister is to be commended for being tolerant with the deputies.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily voiced support for a recent call from a group of Jordanian nationalists advocating a tripartite unity among Jordan, Iraq and Syria. Saleh Abdou said that the call came amid very critical circumstances prevailing in the Arab World and at a time when the U.S.-Israeli alliance is trying to impose its own formula of a settlement on the Arab Nation. The writer said that the three countries ought to embark on a kind of union between them to counter the idea that has been peddled by the West of forming a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli economic union. What the Arabs yearn for is real unity among Arab states, but a kind of confederation can be created for the time being between Amman, Damascus and Baghdad, continued the writer. But, she said, under the present circumstances, this seems to be a bit difficult due to the political stances of Baghdad and Damascus vis-a-vis each other therefore, the Arab nationalist group ought to elaborate on its proposal and offer a practical programme, like economic cooperation among the three countries, as a first step leading to a confederation.

Jordanian Perspective

Jordan needs answers where its security is concerned

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat's obvious reluctance to sign agreements on security arrangements and economic cooperation between Jordan and the envisaged autonomous Palestinian territory raises quite a few questions.

His talk about confederation with Jordan in the context of the agreements was nothing but a smokescreen to hide his refusal to seriously discuss the issue with His Majesty King Hussein.

If some of the accounts of the King's meeting with Mr. Arafat Sunday night are accurate, then the Palestinian leader used the same argument with His Majesty to slip through a firm commitment or a flat refusal.

Diplomacy or not, Mr. Arafat's contention that any agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians should be based on a relationship of confederation between two sovereign entities is flawed at this point in time.

For one thing, the shape of the sovereign Palestinian entity that we all want is going to be determined by how things work out in the first two years of self-rule, before discussions begin on the "final status" of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is imperative that the Palestinians in the occupied territories and outside as well as Jordan as a sovereign entity use those two or three years to pool their efforts and strengthen their hands in such a way that pins the rug from under the feet of the Israeli argument against Palestinian statehood.

Quite telling was Mr. Arafat's departure from Amman Monday without holding a second round of meetings with King Hussein. One of the official reasons for not holding the meeting was that he was due in Germany the next day.

But that does not hold much water. What was at stake for discussions with His Majesty after both their meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was far too important than a one or two hour delay for Mr. Arafat to bask in the red carpet and VIP treatment in Germany.

What Mr. Arafat effectively said at Monday's press conference after meeting Mr. Christopher was: Jordanians should not be worried about security and economic agreements with the autonomous territories since, at the end of the day, it is going to be a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. As such, argued the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, Jordanian-Palestinian relations go beyond signing "an agreement here on an agreement there."

Well, let me correct you Mr. Chairman. We Jordanians do have genuine concerns, confederation or no confederation, five or 10 years from now or in the year 2030.

In the security context, we are worried about the concessions the PLO may have to make to the Israelis regarding entry and exit of Palestinians from the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho as well as the rest of the occupied West Bank.

Whether you see it or not, or choose not to see it, Mr. Arafat, the problem is clear: Jordan has to have some kind of arrangement under which it has a say in who goes and comes over the bridges and other exit and entry points of its territory. Jordan simply cannot keep a corridor open from the airport to the entry/exit point and accept PLO assurances of whatever kind that none of the people coming in or going out pose any security threat to the Kingdom.

It is not as much as trust and confidence that figure in the Jordanian stand as its sovereign powers and rights to preempt any threats to its security and stability.

Further down the line, the Jordanian position is: Jordan will not accept any agreement that derives from Israel-PLO negotiations in Egypt or anywhere else if such an accord does not contain satisfactory answers to the Kingdom's security and stability concerns.

The flow of human traffic is only one element of Jordan's concerns, and there many other aspects which need to be addressed and are addressed in a proposed draft agreement on security arrangements.

Next comes economic cooperation. It is surprising that Mr. Arafat again hid behind the confederation theory to put off the question of an agreement.

Given his single-handed tackling of billions of dollars (dinars, pounds, marks, schillings, kroners, francs of whatever) over the decades, one would have thought Mr. Arafat had better economic acumen of the basics in monetary affairs to see what is possible and what is not. (Here, I have heard critics reject such an assumption altogether, saying that if Mr. Arafat had been efficient with the resources of the PLO, the organisation would not have found itself in the financial mess, artificial or not, that it is found in and which, according to most accounts, forced the chairman to accept the autonomy deal. But then, that is besides the point).

Jordan has a genuine cause to seek a say in the monetary and banking affairs of the occupied territories if only because

around one third of its currency is in circulation among the Palestinians living there.

The Kingdom cannot simply afford to let things take its course as far as the dinar is concerned within or without the context of Palestinian autonomy.

Jordan has worked hard and Jordanians have paid dear sacrifices to regain the stability of the dinar from the slide of 1988, and we are not about to let Mr. Arafat or anyone else undermine it.

If indeed Mr. Arafat and his economic strategists have other ideas like using any other currency in the occupied territories and setting up their own central bank and monetary authorities, Jordan has nothing to say about it. It will be an independent Palestinian decision which Jordan has pledged to respect and support.

But then, Jordan has a right to demand that it be told about PLO plans in advance so that the Kingdom could adopt suitable measures to defend and protect its currency from abuse, whether across the river or anywhere else.

Regardless of Mr. Arafat's arguments, Jordan's concerns over security and economic cooperation have little to do with any confederation, federation or any other form of future relationship between Jordan and the Palestinians. If anything, the same future relationship could be undermined beyond repair if the PLO chairman does not take the Jordanian concerns into serious consideration.

Despite its reservations, Jordan has thrown its weight behind the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement. But such support should not mean Mr. Arafat or anyone else taking too many things for granted and undertaking measures that have serious bearing on the well-being of the Kingdom.

I would not like to offer any advice or suggestions to Mr. Arafat or any of his aides who have been charting strategies for decades. They have their priorities and objectives and, I am sure, they are not finding themselves in too comfortable a situation either.

But I would like to tell them only one thing: Things have reached the point of no return in the context of the peace process and it might be a good idea to give up some of the old, useless strategies and brinksmanship and come forward with bold and innovative ideas that would protect the interest of both sides of the river.

Yeltsin tells voters: My constitution or civil war

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin threw his full weight behind his draft new constitution, warning Russians that if they rejected it in a national vote Sunday the country could slide into civil war.

In a television address to Russia's 107 million voters, Mr. Yeltsin avoided taking sides between the parties competing in simultaneous parliamentary polls, making it clear that approval of the constitution in the referendum was his key target.

"It is your decision — is Russia to be or not to be, the country we voted for in the presidential election and the April (1993) referendum. It is your decision — is there to be, or not to be, peace and calm in Russia."

Mr. Yeltsin's priorities are clear. If the new national charter is approved, the parliament's composition is not vital to him.

If it is rejected, he risks a repetition of the power struggle between president and parliament that culminated in an armed revolt by his opponents which he crushed two months ago, at the cost of nearly 150 lives.

"At the beginning of October peace in our country was hanging by a thread. Civil war was not just knocking at the door, but had already entered our house. We had to take extraordinary measures to ward off this threat," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin said that the threat of civil war would persist as long as Russia still lacked a new basic law.

"The new Russia is forced to live by an old law," he said, referring to the much-amended 1978 Soviet-era constitution.

In the broadcast, recorded before he left to visit Brussels, the 62-year-old president said tackling crime and corruption, restoring order and other poli-

tical goals would be impossible until a fresh basic law was in place.

He acknowledged that the draft did not suit everyone but said it was impossible to write an ideal constitution that would command unanimous support for all time.

"Whatever the shortcomings of the new constitution, the main thing is that it is a reliable mechanism for protecting Russia and its citizens from the upheavals of October 1993."

"Russia can no longer live according to a temporary scheme. At any moment it is threatened by a short circuit or a fire. We do not have the right to risk this any longer," he said.

In a referendum in April this year, Mr. Yeltsin won 58.7 per cent support for his rule and 53 per cent for his radical economic reform policies.

Mr. Yeltsin rejected the argument of some of his critics, including leading election candidate Grigory Yavlinsky, that the new constitution should have been left over for adoption by the new Federal Assembly, rather than by popular vote.

He said the election campaign showed how hard it was for rival electoral blocs to find a common language, and to what extent they were divided by mutual grievances and ambitions.

Constitutional campaigning ended at midnight Friday and electoral propaganda was to end 24 hours later.

Reformist blocs manoeuvred for position Thursday.

Deputy Prime Minister Anatoly Chubais, a leading member of the pre-election favourite Russia's Choice, told international observers he favoured a broad coalition.

Mr. Chubais mentioned the other three reformist blocs, the Yabloko Party of Economist

Grigory Yavlinsky, Sergei Shakhrai's Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES) and St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak's Democratic Reform Movement.

He put the chances of Russia's Choice, the only bloc to publicly describe itself as presidential, at 20 to 35 per cent of the seats in the new lower house, the State Duma.

Alexei Arbatsky of Yabloko (Apple) said his party would join a coalition only if it were necessary in future to keep maverick nationalist Alexander Zhirinovsky or the Communists from power.

But he was decidedly cool about Russia's Choice, which is dominated by government ministers.

Mr. Yeltsin made no apology for the strong presidential powers in his draft, which critics say paves the way for dictatorship.

Referring to what he called "speculations and inventions," he said he had never hidden his belief that Russia, as a huge state spanning Europe and Asia, needed a strong president.

A president elected by the whole population, by all the peoples, the citizens of all its regions or, as they say in old Russia, of all its lands — is called on to embody all of Russia and be the main guarantor of its unity and carry the chief responsibility for the country. But for this he must have corresponding powers," the president declared.

Turning to the parliamentary elections, Mr. Yeltsin called on voters to back those candidates who displayed a sense of responsibility rather than hatred or a desire for confrontation.

"Vote for those who give priority to deeds rather than words and sweet promises," he said.

Russia's chief reformist elec-

toral bloc Friday attacked ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky as a threat to the existence of the country, acknowledging him for the first time as a serious force in national politics.

In a statement issued two days before elections to a new parliament, Russia's Choice described Zhirinovsky, whose popularity appears to have grown with a powerful television campaign, as a demagogue.

"In the 1991 campaign (for the presidency) Vladimir Wolfovich Zhirinovsky seemed to all of us to be a political clown... No one could have conceived that in two years this circus, returned to our television screens, would look like a real threat to common sense."

"This is a threat to the existence of the nation."

"If it has all been a joke to you so far, then now it really is frightening."

Mr. Zhirinovsky's party seems set to clear the five per cent barrier necessary to enter the new State Duma at Dec. 12 polls. Opinion polls in Russia are unreliable, but some have shown his popularity growing towards 10 per cent and one puts it above that level.

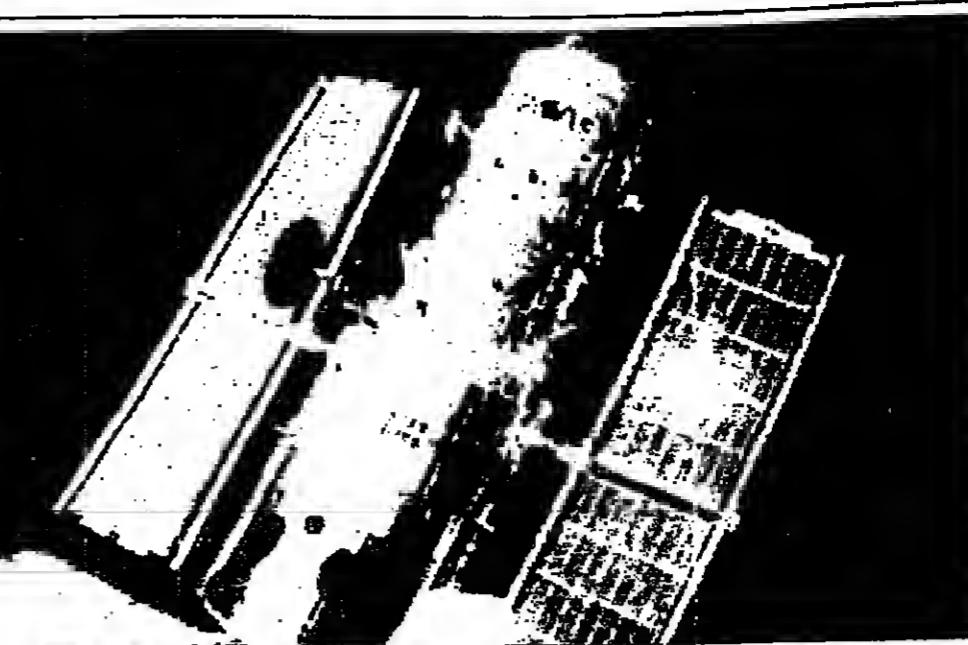
Mr. Zhirinovsky, 47, in his last television appearance before the elections Thursday night, called for harsh measures to root out criminal gangs in Russia. "We need to set up field courts martial on the spot and shoot the leaders of these gangs," he said.

He said he would restore Moscow's control of the former Soviet republics which he regards as historically Russian land. Economic sanctions would bring the newly independent states to their knees.

"Not one drop of blood will be spilt by Russian soldiers. They (the former republics) will ask to return," he said.

The spokesman said however

there had been some "signs



Endeavour releases repaired Hubble

HOUSTON, Texas — Endeavour's spectacular repair mission in space came to a breathtaking close early Friday with the release of the Hubble space telescope into orbit and hopefully a more productive future. The \$1.6-billion instrument was given corrective mirrors, a new camera, computers, gyroscopes and a host of other electronic components during five lengthy spacewalks that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said went perfectly. Swiss astronaut Claude Nicollier, of the European Space Agency, used the shuttle's robot arm to lift the bus-size telescope off its special platform and swing it over the cargo bay. At 5:26 a.m. (1026 GMT) Nicollier released the telescope which remained momentarily poised over southwestern Africa before the Endeavour drew away from it at a speed of 30 centimetres (one foot) per second.

"We have a good release," said shuttle Commander Dick Covey, when the manoeuvre was completed. The photograph shows the reflecting off the newly installed solar panels of the Hubble telescope as it sits in the cargo bay of the shuttle (APF photo)

Bosnian talks to resume on Dec. 21

GENEVA (Agencies) — Parties to the Bosnian war will meet again here on Dec. 21, John Mills, spokesman for the international conference on the former Yugoslavia announced Friday.

Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs Radovan Karadzic and the leader of the Bosnian Croats Mate Boban will attend, he said.

Also joining the negotiations, due to last at least two days, will be Presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia.

The main obstacle to a peace agreement, involving the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina among the three ethnic groups, is the absence of further territorial concessions by the Bosnian Serbs to the Muslims.

International negotiators David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg had Thursday called off a planned meeting for Sunday in Greece between the warring parties as discussions in Belgrade had shown that resumption of the talks so soon had little chance of succeeding, Mr. Mills said.

The spokesman said however there had been some "signs

of progress" in talks the mediators have been having with the different factions since the last Geneva meeting ended on Dec. 2.

Mr. Milosevic and Mr. Karadzic, along with the leader of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb parliament Momcilo Krnjisnik, took part in the Belgrade talks.

Meanwhile, a Greek government spokesman said Friday that his country remained prepared to offer its good offices to foster peace talks.

Evangelos Venizelos said

the offer made to the international mediators remained open.

"We have made a genuine effort to work with the Bosnian Serb army," he said. "We have agreed to provide them with supplies so they can maintain their roads and get fuel deliveries to their hospitals."

Meanwhile the United Nations said Friday it was halting all fuel deliveries to Bosnia and 20 more tonnes to nearby Brecko on Dec. 3, the Serbs were getting 30 per cent of all fuel deliveries to Bosnia.

But convoys for the besieged Muslim enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia and for Maglaj and Tesanij in north-central Bosnia were still being delayed.

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Senna gets off with 2 race suspended ban

ARIS (R) — Former world motor racing champion Ayrton Senna got off with a two-race suspended ban after admitting to an International Automobile Federation (FIA) hearing that he had struck Irish driver Eddie Irvine.

FIA President Max Mosley, announcing the Brazilian Formula One driver's ban to a news conference after a three-hour hearing, said Senna's attitude before the world council had been "impeccable."

Senna admitted to FIA he had punched Irvine during an argument after the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka on Oct. 1. The McLaren driver, who on the event, was angry at the way the Irishman had hammed him in the latter part of a race.

Mosley said Senna would have his licence withdrawn for the first two Formula One races of the 1994 season but at the ban was suspended for months.

"Senna recognised and admitted that he had hit him," Mosley said. "He was honest, fair, responsible and reasonable and we all felt great sympathy for him."

"But what happened cannot be allowed in the sport and we had to be a penalty." Mosley said television film showed Irvine had hindered Senna's attempts to hit him and an audio tape of

the post-race incident, recorded by a journalist, had shown the Jordan driver was provocative in the heated discussion.

"Irvine's attitude was extremely provocative and difficult," he said. "But Senna also opened discussions in a very heated way."

Eyewitnesses had said that, after a long argument, Senna struck Irvine with a left hook to the face and knocked him off the table he was sitting on.

Irvine appeared before the hearing but Mosley said he was there as witness and did not face any disciplinary action himself.

Senna has 30 days in which to appeal against the ban but Mosley said he hoped Thursday's hearing would mark an end to an affair which has clouded the end of the Formula One season.

Mosley said lessons had been learned from what happened on the track and that in future stewards would be instructed to penalise drivers who hindered the race leader from lapping them.

It is not the first time Senna has been in hot water with the sport's authorities.

In 1988 he was fined \$100,000 for dangerous driving after an accident involving France's Alain Prost, also at the Suzuka Circuit.

Rangers ready to make Golac eat his words

ASGOW, Scotland (AFP) — Dundee United manager Ian Golac believes that now Rangers' domination of Scottish football is over, but may have different ideas for his side's clash with the title leaders Saturday.

The champions are two wins clear at the top of the Premier Division, unbeaten in 18 games and won 3-1 at Ibrox earlier in the season, but Golac insisted: "They don't continue to dominate the game the way they have."

Rangers reached their peak last season. Players are perhaps not as hungry and the teams are catching up," said forward Gordon Durie, seeking his first home for the champions following his double at Motherwell last week, while United are without goalkeeper Alan in due to a back injury.

Undee boss Jim Duffy has already avoided such outlandish comments as Golac's for his side's home game against Celtic.

The basement club have collected just 11 points from 20 games and Celtic welcome ex-Scotland striker Charlie Nicholas after a hamstring injury.

Meanwhile, Aberdeen, who had four points from their three games, try to return

to form against Partick at Pittodrie.

Gary Smith should be back in defence after suspension, while Duncan Shearer and Eoin Jess will be the Dons' latest strike force.

Aberdeen boss Willie Miller said: "We've got to start scoring more goals. We should be hitting the target more often, and that's how the strikers will stay in the team and make my job easier."

Motherwell's chance to rejoin Rangers at the top was washed out Wednesday, but the extra few days have helped Chris McCart and Dougie Arnott recover from strains for the game at Hibernian.

The Edinburgh side could have winger Kevin McAllister back for the first time in five weeks after a groin problem. Raith, sharing second bottom-spot with St. Johnstone, will be without striker Peter Hetherston for several months due to a stomach muscle injury, but player-manager Jimmy Nicholl could be fit to return at Kilmarnock.

Saints, already without many long-term absences, have further problems for the home game against Heart of Midlothian. Paul Cherry, Allan Moore, Ian Ferguson and Gunnar Torfason are all doubtful.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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WHERE'S THE RUFF?

st-West vulnerable. South offered slam possibilities.

Against five clubs, West led the king of hearts. With two sure losers in the major suits, the diamond suit would have to be established without losing a trick, if five clubs were going to succeed. Declarer took the ace of hearts, drew two rounds of trumps to discover the 3-1 break, then cashed the king and ace of diamonds. A diamond was ruffed low in dummy, but East overruffed for down one. Ruffing high would have been no better, since declarer needed a second diamond ruff to establish the suit.

Unlucky—out only did neither minor suit break evenly, but it had to be East, who was short in diamonds and held the third trump for the game to fail. Yet five clubs should have been brought home, despite the lie of the cards!

Instead of going for the obvious diamond ruff in dummy, let's suppose that, after winning the ace of hearts, declarer was to cash the king and ace of diamonds and lead another diamond. Instead of ruffing, however, declarer discards dummy's remaining heart. Now nothing can stop declarer from ruffing a diamond with the king of trumps to set up the suit and ruffing the heart loser with a low trump, and the contract is no longer in jeopardy.



Brazilian Formula One driver Ayrton Senna Thursday leaves the International Automobile Federation hearing in Paris (AFP photo)

Fashanu faces F.A. inquiry over Mabbutt challenge

LONDON (AFP) — Wimbleton striker John Fashanu has been ordered to explain the challenge which fractured the skull of Tottenham captain Gary Mabbutt before an English Football Association (FAS) commission of inquiry.

Fashanu will sit down with Mabbutt and watch a video of the incident, in which the former England forward elbowed the Spurs defender in the face during a premiership match, before the FA decide whether to take further action.

The ex-England centre-half came within a millimetre of losing the sight in his right eye and Spur's manager Ossie Ardiles asked the FA to investigate after match referee Keith Hackett failed to take any action.

FA officials wrote to Fashanu asking for his comments and in his reply he states: "It was a complete and genuine accident. There was no intent on my part to cause him any injury."

However, Tottenham's letter of complaint implied that Fashanu was in breach of the rule which relates to conduct "considered to be ungentlemanly, insulting or improper behaviour or likely to bring the game into disrepute."

The F.A. confirmed: "After reviewing the correspondence in our possession, it has been decided to appoint a commission of inquiry before deciding whether there will be any

charges preferred.

"John Fashanu and Gary Mabbutt will be invited to attend together with two officials from each club."

"The match referee and linesman will also be in attendance, and a video film of the relevant incident will be shown."

Meanwhile, Hartlepool's players have been talked out of going on strike by their union for Saturday's second division game with Brighton, after their pay cheques bounced.

Goalkeeper Tim Carter, the Hartlepool Professional Footballers' Association representative, said: "The game will go on. We've taken union advice and will play. But we want a meeting with the chairman as soon as possible."

Earlier Friday, the entire Hartlepool professional squad refused to train.

Carter explained: "If we worked on a building site and weren't paid, we would down tools and walk off. We're doing the same now. This has happened once too often and the players are fed up."

"We have wives and children to look after and if we don't get wages, we can't do that. It's up to the club."

Hartlepool are in financial trouble and due in the high court here next month to face a winding up order brought by the Inland Revenue for £98,000 in unpaid tax.

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Stich beats Steven, Edberg ousts Ferreira in Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (AP) — Brett Steven took the biggest paycheck of his career and went home. Michael Stich took the money and the victory.

Stich, the defending champion, came from behind Thursday to beat Steven 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 in the quarterfinals of the Grand Slam Cup.

Stefan Edberg, the No. 2 seed, also reached the semifinals, beating Wayne Ferreira 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-0. Edberg never went past the first round in two previous Grand Slam Cup appearances.

Stich, No. 2 in the world and aiming for a rare and rich triple, broke Steven in the first game of the first set to gain the decisive edge.

Steven, 24, only gained a place in the 16-man draw when Richard Krajicek dropped out because of an injury.

Ranked 43rd in the world and a quarterfinalist at the Australian Open, Steven has

never won a tournament, but his earnings improved dramatically here.

By reaching the quarterfinals, the New Zealander picked up \$262,500 and nearly doubled his 1993 earnings. His total career earnings had been \$438,497, \$102,140 in 1992.

His highest previous payday had been \$35,000.

"The whole money — it is hard to understand what it all means," Steven said. "Most of the other guys in this tournament have enough money to last them for the rest of their lives."

"For me it's fantastic that it enables me to have choice once I finish playing tennis of what I am going to do. I am going to save it," Steven said.

"I am thankful that I got in and took the opportunity that was presented," he said. "I lost to the better player on the day."

Stich did quite handsomely

himself. For reaching the semifinals, Stich collected \$431,250. Not bad for three hours of work spread over two days.

The German picked \$2 million for his victory here last year and his total Grand Slam Cup earnings now stand at \$2,881,250.

The \$6 million Grand Slam Cup is the richest tournament in the world and invites 16 players with the best record over the four Grand Slam tournaments of the year — the Australian, French and U.S. Opens and Britain's Wimbledon.

The players are seeded according to their Grand Slam performances.

Steven was relaxing in Bermuda last week, doing some off-season fitness work, when he was summoned to Munich.

But he upset Cedric Pioline in the first round and gave

Stich a difficult time before bowing out to the hottest player on the circuit.

He broke Stich to win the first set and fought back from a 1-5 deficit in the second, saving two set points before Stich served out the set.

But once Stich broke to lead 1-0 in the third, the German cruised home and finished with 14 aces, to Steven's three.

Stich, the fifth seed, won the ATP Tour World Championship in Frankfurt in November and led Germany to a Davis Cup Final victory over Australia last weekend in Dusseldorf.

He's already earned nearly \$2 million within the last month, not counting this event.

Ferreira saved three set points in the tiebreak to go one set up. But Edberg broke for a 2-1 lead and swept the next 10 games.

Santana in pursuit of cup and new job in Tokyo

TOKYO (Agencies) — Teles Santana has come to Tokyo not just to watch his Sao Paulo side defend the Intercontinental Cup against AC Milan but also to sound out his own possible future as Japanese coach.

Since he arrived in Japan for Sunday's match, the 62-year-old Santana has said he is interested in taking the job of Japan's head coach when his contract with the Brazilian club finishes soon — but only if the money is right.

"I don't see any problems for signing a contract when I come free next month," Santana told the Japanese media. "I would like to have good conditions if I take it."

The Italian coach has been speculating that Santana, who managed Brazil's national side before going to Sao Paulo, wants over \$3.5 million a year to take over from Dutchman Hans Ooft who stepped down after Japan failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals.

A spokesman for the Japan Soccer Federation acknowledged that Santana was one of several candidates for the job and said the federation might talk to him after Sunday's match.

All the speculation about Santana has rather overshadowed his players' purpose — to hold in to the cup they won last year by beating Spain's Barcelona 2-1.

On the pitch, Santana's highest headache has been finding someone to fill the midfield role which once belonged to pintado, now with Mexican club Cruz Azul.

Despite also losing Rai, who scored in last year's Intercontinental Cup, TO Paris St Germain, Sao Paulo last month won the South American Supercup and became the first club to win the supercup and the Libertadores in the same year.

As Milan, the intercontinental winners in 1989 and 1990, are trying to shrug off the feeling that they are past their peak, despite reclaiming the top in the Italian League before departing for Japan.

The Italians have come here this year as replacements for Marseille, after the French club, who beat Milan in the European Cup final, were implicated in a bribery scandal.

Sao Paulo have no doubts about beating AC Milan.

"We have already played 95 matches this season. You know how hard it has been," Santana said.

"We have been through it all and will be the world's number one for the second year in a row."

However, there was similar fighting talk from Fabio Capello as the Italians prepared for their third cup appearance.

"We are not going to wait for counter-attack chances," Capello warned. "We will be playing aggressively."

A member of the original Marseille squad who beat Milan to win the European Cup trophy, defensive midfielder Marcel Desailly, is set to play for Milan here Sunday.

The 25-year-old Ghana-born French international moved from Marseille to Italy last month for \$7 million.

Zamalek win African Champions Cup

CAIRO (AP) — A sudden-death goal by defender Ashraf Youssef Friday gave Egypt's Zamalek a 7-5 shoot-out victory over Asante Kotoko of Ghana and African soccer's 1993 Champions Cup.

The victory before 100,000 boisterous fans, after 0-0 draw in regulation time, gave Egypt both major African club titles this year. On a penalty goal, Zamalek's bitter rival Ahli took the Cup Winner's Cup last Friday with a 1-0 win over Africa Sport of Ivory Coast.

A shoot-out was necessary during the game, keeping the action mainly in Kotoko territory, but they repeatedly missing close-in chances.

Kotoko's Ouli Rahm drew a red card midway through the second half for a rough tackle. Both teams had two of their

original five shootout tries blocked. On the seventh, Kotoko goalie Antonio Mansel knocked away midfielder Ismail Youssef's soft attempt, giving Kotoko's Dooah Noah a chance to win the game and the cup. But his shot skittered to the left of the goal.

Zamalek's Ashraf Youssef then laid the ball past Mansel into the right rear of the net. Zamalek goalkeeper Nader Al Sayed stopped the tying shot by Kotoko's Said Youssef to save the victory.

The Egyptians dominated during the game, keeping the action mainly in Kotoko territory, but they repeatedly missing close-in chances.

Kotoko's Ouli Rahm drew a red card midway through the second half for a rough tackle. Both teams had two of their

Jansen vows to go for gold in Lillehammer

MILWAU

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLO fighter dons woman's veil to escape

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — One of the top PLO guerrillas on the Gaza Strip escaped from jail Friday disguised as a veiled woman. Ziad Karaman, 24, who led the armed wing of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in Central Gaza, broke out during the weekly family visits at the Hof camp on the Gaza City waterfront. Captured a year ago in a shootout with the Israeli army, Mr. Karaman is accused of taking part in anti-Israeli operations and killing suspected Palestinian collaborators.

Sweden sells Mogadishu hospital to U.N.

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden is selling its field hospital in Mogadishu to the United Nations for around 20 million crowns (\$2.4 million), the foreign ministry said Friday. Swedish hospital technicians will hand over to a Pakistani company which will take over the facility on behalf of the U.N. early next year. Foreign Aid Minister Alf Svensson said it was positive that the U.N. was taking over responsibility for the field hospital, set up one year ago, at a time when Sweden had to Somalia was entering a more long-term phase. Somalia is due to receive 325 million crowns (\$39 million) from Sweden this year, some of it to build up primary health care.

3 wounded in car-bomb blast in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A car-bomb exploded in the Iraqi capital on Wednesday, injuring three people as well as damaging six cars and stores, authorities said. Police were "investigating and searching for the perpetrators of this odious crime," which occurred at 8:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) in a marketplace, the official Iraqi News Agency said. Two people were wounded when a car-bomb exploded in Baghdad on Oct. 20, with a government spokesman accusing foreign agents of being behind the blast. Five people were hurt, including one seriously, in a car-bomb attack on Aug. 4 in the capital, which Iraqi authorities blamed on Iranian agents.

U.S. objector applications rose during Gulf war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people applying for conscientious objector status during the Gulf war more than doubled but still barely affected U.S. military readiness, congressional analysts report. The General Accounting Office (GAO), the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress, said that the number of applications for conscientious objector status us increased to 447 in the 12 months beginning Oct. 1, 1990. Of these, about 61 per cent were approved. In the three previous years, when no war was being fought, the U.S. Defense Department received up to 200 applications a year and approved up to 85 per cent of them. "While the number of applications more than doubled... the number was minuscule compared to the number of people in uniform (about two million) and the number of people deployed to the Gulf (about 500,000)," the GAO said. "The insignificant number... indicated that conscientious objectors had no measurable impact on the readiness of the all-volunteer force," the agency said. The GAO said that most of those who applied for conscientious objector status were young, junior enlisted personnel.

Thai generals linked to jewellery theft

BANGKOK (R) — Two Thai police generals will be implicated in a new report on the unresolved 1990 case of jewellery stolen from a Saudi prince, a parliamentary committee spokesman said. "Even a prathom four (fourth-grade) graduate will know who the wrongdoers were after reading our information," Vichai Chaiyavantikul, spokesman for the house committee on labour and social welfare, told reporters on Thursday. The generals would not be named because it was beyond the committee's responsibility to do so, Friday's Nation newspaper quoted him as saying. Ties between Thailand and Saudi Arabia have been soured for years by the theft of \$20 million in family jewellery from a Riyadh palace by a Thai worker. The pieces were returned but the Saudis said 75 per cent were cheap fakes. Thailand's attorney-general has charged seven policemen, including the chief investigator, and three civilians with embezzlement in the case. But the missing jewellery has still not been returned. Saudi Arabia's envoy to Thailand and others have implied that more members of the police force may have been involved.

Lebanon unions prepare for strike

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's labour union confederation is pressing ahead with its preparations for a general strike next week amid a lack of communications with the government, a union leader said Friday. "If there is no contact between the government and the confederation, the general strike next Wednesday is definitely going ahead," the secretary-general of the CGIL labour confederation, Yasser Nimeh, told Reuters.

Bhutto visit boosts relations with Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto wound up a visit to Iran Friday which boosted economic and other ties between the two countries.

The two countries held "bread discussions in an atmosphere of friendship" and have decided to step-up political, economic and technical cooperation, she said before leaving for Turkey.

She called on Muslims to close ranks to solve problems plaguing Islamic countries, mainly Afghanistan.

Iran and Pakistan had decided to increase cooperation in the fields of oil and gas, with Iran planning to build a refinery in Pakistan. A gas pipeline could also be built to export Iranian gas to Pakistan.

Mrs. Bhutto said she had invited President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to visit her country in 1994. No date was announced.

Mrs. Rafsanjani, who accompanied Ms. Bhutto to the airport, said the prime minister's visit was "successful" and Iran and Pakistan had become closer.

A joint economic commission would be set up to implement various agreements reached between the two Muslim states, he said.

Bilateral trade stood at \$300 million in 1992, with Iran exporting mainly oil and importing rice. Trade between the two countries is expected to rise to \$500 million soon, according to official sources.

A declaration issued at the end of Ms. Bhutto's visit focused mainly on cooperation in foreign policy.

EC leaders divided on growth plan financing

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — A European Community (EC) summit was divided here Friday over financing for an ambitious public works scheme to help pull the EC out of its recession and deepening unemployment crisis.

A spokesman for the EC's Executive Commission said the leaders were generally supportive of its package of proposals, including measures to boost competitiveness through labour market deregulation and wage restraint.

But Britain rejected a commission proposal for 48 billion ECU (\$54 billion) in bond issues to help fund European rail, road, energy and telecommunications networks over six years.

Germany and the Netherlands also expressed reservations about the scheme, part of a broad strategy aimed at cutting the 12-member EC's 11 per cent unemployment rate in half by the turn of the century.

The economic crisis and plight of 17 million jobless Europeans topped the agenda for the two-day summit which opened as tens of thousands of Belgians jammed downtown Brussels to protest their government's austerity plans.

Efforts to nail down a world trade accord also figured prominently in the talks with EC Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan flying to Geneva Saturday for the final push before Wednesday's deadline.

British Prime Minister John Major fired the strongest shot in the debate over financing for the job-creating investment scheme expected to involve 120 billion ECU (\$135 billion), with 40 per cent financed by bonds.

"It would be absurd for the commission to increase its borrowing when member states are taking severe action to reduce theirs," he said in a speech, adding that the private sector should take the lead in such projects.

He also dismissed the commission's target of creating 15 million jobs as a "meaningless" exercise that could under-

mine EC credibility, and objected to energy taxes proposed to offset any lowered social charges for businesses.

Mr. Major's attack drew an acidic response from a commission official who said: "I hope that the British realise that the tunnel under the Channel is not the only investment Europe needs."

Away from the summit, central Brussels was transformed by a sea of red flags and echoed to the sound of firecrackers as thousands of trade unionists protested against Belgium's austerity plans and underlined the challenge facing the EC leaders.

Diplomats said the leaders gave broad support to the ideas put forward in a white paper by European Commission President Jacques Delors, who has steered the community towards closer union during nine years as president of its executive commission.

"This white paper is a charter of the possible," a spokesman quoted President Francois Mitterrand, a fellow French socialist, as telling his colleagues. "This white paper is what I was waiting for to re-launch Europe."

Even Mr. Major spoke positively about much of the white paper, according to diplomats, touting down many of the harsher comments made to the television cameras in recent days and departing from prepared speaking notes.

But he took a tough stance against Mr. Delors's call to borrow and spend eight billion ECU (\$9 billion) a year in new money from 1994 to 1999 to pay for the programme.

"It makes no sense for all

the countries of the European Community to individually cut their borrowing and then collectively borrow in a new fashion through the European Community, and that is what we oppose," Mr. Major said before hearing Mr. Delors.

The Netherlands and cash-strapped Germany, the largest net contributor to EC funds, were also opposed to the idea of new borrowing.

Non-life threatening situations.

The report went on to list "inadmissible methods of interrogation," the sealing of houses as punishments and a new tactic, "the use of massive firepower (anti-tank missiles) at houses during searches for wanted individuals leading to the destruction of the houses of dozens of families."

Some 66 homes were destroyed in the last year.

However, Betselem monitored a decline in the killings in the second half of the year a significant decrease in the number of detainees and less resort to curfew although Gaza remains under night curfew.

The report made no comment on the Sept. 13 signing of an autonomy agreement, except of autonomy agreement, except for the year began with the Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians for "essential security needs" after six members of the security forces were killed.

"Not only did the deportation fail to improve the security situation, in its wake the number of those killed on both sides... increased dramatically.

"In the first six months after the deportation twice as many Palestinians were killed in the territories as in the previous six months," Betselem noted.

The security forces continued to use lethal force in

Yasser Arafat's speech.

According to figures compiled by AFP the sixth year of intifada was by far the most costly in Jewish lives with 55 Israelis killed by Palestinians, compared with 39 the previous year.

Residents of the camp, the most militant in the Gaza Strip, were relaxed, expecting their camp would be among the first evacuated by the army to make way for Palestinian self-rule.

Under the PLO-Israel peace agreement, the first troops should pull out of the Gaza Strip on Monday. On Thursday, smiling youths moved among the fresh-faced soldiers guarding the demolition teams. The young conscripts still looked edgy, unused to Arabs surrounding them.

"I hope so," said local elder Mohammad Okasha.

Camp elders and political

leaders had ordered a truce for the demolition, eager to give the army a helping hand on its way out of their lives.

They knew the soldiers did not need to be there. Palestinian bulldozers could have pulled down the walls of cement-filled oil drums unguarded. But the army wanted to be seen easing the tension in the camp before the peace accord is implemented.

They chose block two, the "hottest" section of the camp. Its warren of cinder-block houses has long given perfect cover for youths to lob stones at vehicles entering and leaving the main army base nearby, hence the oil-drum walls blocking the alleys.

The army base, with a fence six metres high and soaring watch tower, may be one of the first signs of the 26-year-old occupation to disappear by the end of the year.

"I hope so," said local elder Mohammad Okasha.

Camp elders and political



Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath (second from left) Friday poses with the three Britons whose release from jail he secured in a meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Heath flies out with 3 Britons freed by Saddam

By Marianne M. Shashin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three Britain nationals flew to freedom Friday after former British Prime Minister Edward Heath negotiated their release with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in what was the first such high-level contact between the Iraq leader and a Western official in over a decade.

Mr. Heath, a member of the House of Lords, thanked His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam for their hospitality and the travel arrangements they had provided for himself and the released prisoners.

Marking what is believed to be a turning point in Iraq's strained relations with the West, Mr. Heath's two-day visit to Baghdad included a two-and-a-half hour meeting with the Iraqi leader.

"I met with President Saddam as well as the foreign minister of Iraq and had a two-and-a-half hour talk on a wide range of issues," Mr. Heath said during a press conference after arriving from Iraq with former prisoners Simon Dunn, Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright.

The three men, all convicted by Iraqi courts of entering Iraqi territory illegally, were held at the Abani Ghraib prison in central Baghdad before their release Thursday.

Mr. Heath said he could not reveal the contents of his discussion with the Iraqi leader, but said that favours were "not asked for, not offered and not given."

The prisoners and a British delegation headed by Mr. Heath were flown by helicopter from Baghdad to the Iraqi border where they were picked up by a Jordanian Armed Forces helicopter and flown to a Jordanian civilian airport.

British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinckcliffe and other British officials joined the families of the three former prisoners and a crowd of mostly British journalists to meet the released prisoners at the airport.

The families of the former prisoners had been flown to Amman by the privately-owned Virgin Airlines at "no cost to the tax payer," said Mr. Heath.

Mr. Heath's stress on the humanitarian need that exists in Iraq today and the "obligation" that the United Nations had to look into those needs echoed requests and themes of humanitarian missions working in Iraq for the last three years.

"I had my personal doctor with me and the released men are in good health. We met with the minister of health. There is great humanitarian need in Iraq," said Mr. Heath.

It is yet clear what the Iraqi government believes Britain will do to help get the U.N. economic sanctions eased, but Iraqi officials in Amman said Friday: "nothing is for nothing."

Two British parliamentarians visited Iraq last May but were not accorded an audience with the Iraqi president despite their known anti-war stand during the Gulf war.

Mr. Heath stressed that dialogue was one of the most important aspects of diplomacy and said he regretted that neither the British foreign secretary nor the

Nazionale de Lavoro (BNL).

Atlanta banker accused of illegally loaning Iraq \$5.5 billion was sentenced Thursday to 37 months in prison after a guilty plea that excluded the most serious conspiracy charges.

The 20 months Christopher Drogoul served in prison while awaiting trial will count against the sentence.

Palestinians also killed 89 fellow Palestinians during the year on suspicion of collaboration, making a six-year total of nearly 800, according to the group's collation of press figures.

According to figures compiled by AFP the sixth year of intifada was by far the most costly in Jewish lives with 55 Israelis killed by Palestinians, compared with 39 the previous year.

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"I hope so," said local elder Mohammad Okasha.

Camp elders and political

leaders had offered advice on how to tear down a barricade.

Mr. Okasha, 72, fled to Jabalya in 1948 when the Jewish state was carved out of British-ruled Palestine. He still has the need to a farm just 200 metres north of the Gaza Strip in Israel.

Like most refugees from that era he lived in a tent before progressing to a corrugated iron shack. Eight years ago he built a cinder-block house.

He does not realistically expect to go back to his family property in Israel. He does not even expect to leave the camp under Palestinian self-rule.

"No money. People cannot move out even if they want to," Mr. Okasha said, echoing an opinion held by many.

Poverty here is less extreme than in the slums of Bombay or the favelas of Sao Paulo. But combined with repression by an occupying

army and a deep sense of injustice and loss it produced the cocktail which exploded into a popular uprising on Dec. 9, 1987.

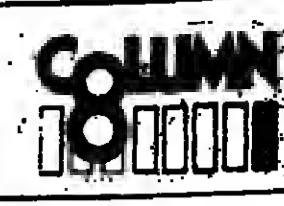
The first victim of the intifada, 17-year-old Hatim Al Sisi was shot stoning an army vehicle just up the road.

Since then, Israelis have killed 1,159 Palestinians and 166 Israelis have died in the violence.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have also been jailed. Releasing them would help show a still sceptical Palestinian public that the PLO-Israel accord was working.

"I will only feel their peace when the prisoners are released," said one woman onlooker whose husband has served seven years of a 23-year sentence for attacking Israelis.

For Ramzi Kaloub, who lives with 17 family members in three small rooms, the intifada will only have been worthwhile if Israel with



Charles, Diana pass separation anniversary

LONDON (R) — Heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana passed the first anniversary of their separation as the nation pondered the future of the tarnished British crown. The anniversary of the official break-up of their 12-year marriage saw the couple carrying out separate duties and embarking on fast-diverging paths in life — Prince Charles preparing for eventual kingship and his wife for royal exile. Princess Diana, attending an arts award ceremony, bowed her head and bit her lip as she was warmly applauded and offered "love and support" in her planned retreat from the limelight at the end of the year. The couple are now exactly half-way through the minimum period of separation needed for a discreet divorce and the possibility of a complete break has focused minds as never before on the future of the royal dynasty. A controversy about the links between church and monarchy, fuelled by attacks this week on the 45-year-old prince's fitness to be king, flared again Thursday with a report that bishops wanted to loosen official links with the crown. The Times newspaper said part of the Church of England hierarchy wanted to review the system under which the sovereign automatically becomes head of the church and "defender of the faith." One senior churchman, troubled by the idea of a divorced King Charles, this week openly questioned whether a man with a broken marriage and who was the subject of undenied reports of an affair with a married woman was fit for the role.

Slain toddler's mother has premature baby

LIVERPOOL (R) — The mother of murdered toddler James Bulger, whose brutal killing by two